

(c) the time by which this system is likely to be introduced; and

(d) the extent to which it will help to improve the postal services and the proposed expenditure to be involved in this scheme?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) A proposal to this effect is under the consideration of the Government.

(b) to (d). In view of (a) above does not arise.

Revival of river Board Act

5297. SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to Revive the River Board Act for amicable and meaningful settlement of river disputes among the different States;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be

finalised?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) to (c). River Boards Act was enacted by the Parliament in 1956 and is in force. A river board can be set up in consultation with interested State Governments, through notification under the provisions of the existing Act.

Vanadium Ore Reserve

5298. SHRI BHAGEY GORARDHAN: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated reserves of vanadium ore in the country and the locations thereof;

(b) the production of vanadium metal or its alloy in the country; and

(c) the demand for vanadium alloys in the country and in the international markets?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) The estimated total reserves of vanadium ore in the country are as under:-

| <i>State/District</i> | <i>Reserves (In 000' tonnes)</i> |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Karnataka | 8,842 |
| Hassan | 162 |
| Shimoga | 8,680 |
| Maharashtra | 6,200 |
| Bhandara | |
| Orissa | 3,460 |

| <i>State/District</i> | <i>Reserves (In 000' tonnes)</i> |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Mayurbhanj | 2,260 |
| Balasore | 1,200 |
| India - Total | 18,502 |

(b) Production of ferro-vanadium in the country during the year 1989 (Prov.) stood at 68.94 tonnes.

(c) The consumption of ferro-vanadium in the country during 1988 was 240 tonnes whereas the total world consumption during that year stood at 33,200 tonnes.

Coking coal for Visakhapatnam Steel Plant

5299. SHRI BHAGEY GOBARDHAN: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated requirement of coking coal by the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant per annum;

(b) the sources of supply of coking coal;

(c) whether any coking coal is likely to be imported; and

(d) if so, the outgo of foreign exchange as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) to (d). The estimated coking coal requirement for VSP for the year 1992-93 is approximately 3.10 million tonnes. A quantity of 0.90 million tonnes medium coking coal is expected to be supplied from indigenous sources, mostly from the washeries of Central Coal Field Limited. The balance quantity of 2.20 million tonnes of

coking coal will be imported at an approximate cost of \$ 110 million F.O.B. prices.

[Translation]

Appointments of SC/ST Candidates

5300. SHRI MAHESH KANODIA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state

(a) the number of candidates belonging to scheduled castes and scheduled tribes appointed under the special drive by his Ministry from June 1990 to October 1990;

(b) whether the Ministry also launched any such special drive in 1991 for filling up the backlog; and

(c) if so, the total number of appointments made in this connection?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFROMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS): (a) The infromation is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(b) Yes, Sir,

(c) The infromation is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House

Electronic Exchanges in Madhya Pradesh

5301. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VARMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :